County Corridors

JUNE 2012 Volume 24, Number 2

A Newsletter for Tompkins County Employees and Retirees http://www.tompkins-co.org/countycorridors

25-Year Club



Alfonso Fiorille Assessment Department



Victoria Wagner Assessment Department



Elizabeth Cree Board of Elections



Elizabeth Smith County Clerk's Office



Dianna Schooley County Office for the Aging



Charles Smithers Department of Emergency Response



Sandra Greene DSS



Cindy Mott DSS



Rhonda Salay DSS



Michelle Sturm DSS



Lisa Jehu Finance



Lucinda Mallery Health Department



Robert W. Lauper Highway Division



Eileen Sommers
Probation &
Community
Justice



David Wolf Probation & Community Justice



Robert Babcock Sheriff's Office



Sharon Cooper Sheriff's Office



Harry Hawk Sheriff's Office



Joseph Sornberger Sheriff's Office

Remember 1987!: The Unabomber, Iran-Contra affair, the Simpsons, tearing down the Berlin Wall, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Mikhail Gorbachev, Black Monday on Wall Street, and these 19 inductees started their careers with Tompkins County.

This year's 25 year club dinner at Lake Watch May 17th was another wonderful tribute to our dedicated and committed coworkers.

The weather was beautiful, the food was delicious, and the speeches were brief! It was a night to talk to old friends and share stories about the inductees—and Jay Franklin should consider a career as stand-up comic!

Maureen Reynolds

LOCAL SENIOR TRANSPORTATION WORKSHOPS IN NATIONAL NEWS... PLUS, YOUR HELP REQUESTED TO IMPROVE TOMPKINS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION WITH A SURVEY!

Submitted by Cynthia Kloppel, Mobility Program Specialist, Tompkins County



The Tompkins County transportation education center Way2Go is featured in the national transportation news for their transformative work in area transportation and support of seniors' transportation concerns!

See http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2 success story Way2Go for the full article.

The program is showcased for the creative approach to making local transportation information available with outreach to residents, employers, and human service agencies in the form of workshops, trainings and meetings, an extensive website, and access to phone consultations. Way2go is dedicated to improving area transportation through dialogue, collaboration, and advocacy with area transportation users and providers, and supporting individuals to take charge of transportation in their lives and communities.

For seniors, Way2Go offers a free workshop titled Retiring from Driving: It Isn't the End!, which focuses on driving alternatives and strategies to transition from driving. Way2Go staff present this two-hour workshop monthly at senior centers and other venues for seniors. Typically, 10 to 15 seniors and caregivers attend each session. And for family and caregivers concerned about the driving of the senior loved one, this fall Way2Go staff will be offering their first Seniors Retiring from Driving workshop just for Family and Caregivers. to support family and caregivers in the difficult conversations on retiring from driving.

To help you or a loved one with the family conversations on transportation, and other Way2go initiatives, check out the Way2Go website http://ccetompkins.org/community/way2go.

You can help improve transportation in Tompkins County by taking a survey on a new transportation project!

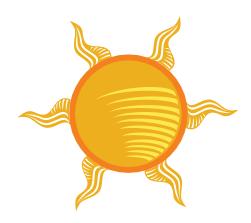
Tompkins County and local transportation partners are collaborating with a national transportation innovator ITN America to research new ideas in community transportation called *ITNEverywhere*.

We are evaluating the feasibility of providing a new business model of accessing multiple existing and potentially new transportation means from one secure, flexible personal transportation account. For example, if ITNe was implemented in Tompkins County, the personal transportation options could include a volunteer ride for seniors or others, and a community van transportation service and ridesharing for everyone.

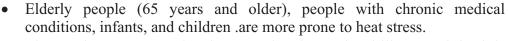
Your survey answers will help us learn how people travel, what's important to you, and what might work for our community transportation. The survey takes 15-20 minutes to complete, is for people 18 years or older, and to thank you for your time, you may enter a drawing for \$50.00 or one of six Wegmans gift cards at the end of the survey. The survey is available online at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/itnetompkins.

Help us continue the work of improving transportation in Tompkins County and beyond.

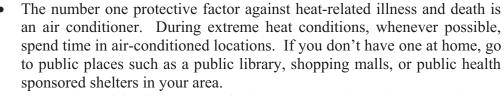
Extreme Heat Precautions...



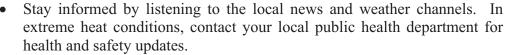














• Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of cool, nonalcoholic beverages, regardless of your activity level.

Source and for more information: http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heat_guide.asp

Submitted by Geri Lockwood, Highway Member Tompkins County Public Information Officer Team



~ * * SAVE THE DATE * * ~

CSEA Local 855 – 2012 Employee Appreciation & Information Day (Picnic)

Date: Saturday, August 25th
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

(food served 12:00-1:30 p.m.)
Location: Stewart Park (large pavilion)

ALL YOU CAN EAT BBQ!

Prices: CSEA Employees = no charge Guests = \$14.95 each Children (age 12 and younger) = \$9.95 each

(Information and registration forms to be mailed by August 1st.)

If you have any question, please feel free to contact: Patty Van de Bogart, at (607) 273-2018

Sue Wrolstad, at (607) 539-7132

Save the date COUNTY EMPLOYEE BLOOD DRIVE Save the date



Help save 3 lives by donating 1 pint of your blood

August 9th Tompkins County Public Library 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

From the Red Cross.....

Registration

Our staff and volunteers will sign you in and go over basic eligibility and donation information. You will read information about donating blood, and will be asked to

show a donor card, driver's license, or other form(s) of ID.

Health History & Mini-Physical

You will answer some questions during a private and confidential interview about your health history and places you have traveled. We will check your temperature, pulse, blood pressure and hemoglobin level present in a sample of blood.

The Donation

We will cleanse an area on your arm and insert a brand new sterile needle for the blood draw. This feels like a quick pinch and is

over in seconds. The actual donation takes about 8-10 minutes, during which you will be seated comfortably. Certain donation types, such as platelets, red cells or plasma (apheresis donations) can take up to 2 hours. When approximately a pint of blood has been collected, the donation is complete and a staff person will place a bandage on your arm.

Snack Time

After donating, you should have a snack and something to drink in the refreshments area. You can leave the site after 10-15 minutes and continue with your normal daily activities. Enjoy the feeling of accomplishment knowing that you have helped save lives.

~ August 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	County Employee Blood Drive @ Public Library 10:00-3:00	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	41	22	23	24	25
26	21	28	29	30	31	

Submitted by Jackie Kippola, County Administration Blood Drive Chair



Department News

Board of Elections

Poll Workers Wanted!

The Board of Elections is currently looking for Poll Site Inspectors and Managers. This is a great opportunity for folks interested in participating in the political process. Inspectors sign in voters and distribute ballots. Poll Site Managers open and close the voting machines and assist voters as needed.

New workers attend a paid training session and then are teamed with experienced workers for the election. For Primary Elections, Inspectors are paid \$100 for working 11:30am - 9:30pm, and Poll Site Managers are paid \$130 for 11am - 9:30pm. For the General Election Inspectors are paid \$160 (5:30am - 9:30pm) and the Poll Site Managers get \$190 (5:00am - 9:30pm).

The trainings will begin in September. You may sign up by calling the Board of Elections at 607-274-5521.

Department of Social Services

Bernice Yarosh Retires from DSS

As of May 25th, I am retired. 36 years (longer than some of you are old), all my adult life, starting at age 22, I have worked at the DSS and now it is time to close this chapter because all is good and start the next. I think it is safe to say, I grew up in and with this Department. And I am enamored by the noble work we do and am glad to have been a part of it all for so many years.

I started as a Social Welfare Examiner in 1975, doing Public Assistance recertifications, then intakes. We were housed on the 4^{th} floor on Green Street – where the Ithaca City offices are. Bob Wagner was the Commissioner. After 1 1/2 years 1977, I became a caseworker doing child welfare intakes and working with youth in residential. Hoping and waiting for when a Senior Caseworker resigned, I was promoted to my <u>dream job</u>, a Sr. Caseworker in Child Protective Services in 1979. CPS law was at that time only 3 \sim years old. It was a developing and exciting program area.



In 1983 I was promoted to Supervisor, assigned to Adult Protective Services/MH Community Support Services, then in 1986 transferred back to Children's Services as the Child Protective Supervisor, before taking a parenting leave upon the adoption of my two children in 1993. Between 1994 and 2008 I supervised the Adoption/Home finding / Family Services Intake Unit, Ongoing children's services, Youth and Family Services and Intake. In 2008 I was promoted to the Children's Services Division Supervisor.

Although I do not yet know what it is like NOT to work here, I will soon find out. Over the years I have often said that "people outside of DSS" don't know what it is like to do this difficult/challenging work, and it is hard to explain to people what the job is like. I know I found it rewarding, challenging, stressful and satisfying. That's why I stayed all these years. This area of public service is for some and not for others.

I am not quite sure how to close this chapter after so many years, but am looking forward to a different routine and spending my day doing other things. It will be an adjustment.

I have always enjoyed this work. Tompkins County DSS, as we know, has led the charge across NYS in many areas, but especially in Children's Services. I am proud to have been a part of that. I will miss everyone and the many relationships I have developed within the DSS, but also with our community partners.

Farewell! *Beruice*

Highway Division

Best wishes to *Cheryl Nelson*, Public Works Administrator/Interim Highway Manager, who resigned (fully retired from Tompkins County) on May 10th.

Welcome, *Jeff Smith*, Highway Director, who began employment on June 4th.

Office for the Aging

Seniors Honored at Office for the Aging Annual Luncheon

The Tompkins County Office for the Aging's Advisory Committee held its 2012 Annual Luncheon on May 24th at the Clarion Hotel in Ithaca. Betty Perkins-Carpenter, PhD. who is the President of Senior Fitness, Inc. and a former Olympic diving coach, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Carpenter has been hailed as "America's Ambassador to Senior Fitness." Her message to attendees spoke of her optimism and belief that seniors are "so much more capable than doctors think we are and so much more capable than *we* think we are."

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to Sis Johnson for Senior Citizen of the Year and to Carol John, Ardie Bennet and Monte May of *Wonderful Wheelchairs* for Outstanding Contribution by Seniors.

Sis Johnson has devoted years to volunteering at many local organizations. She has

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Betty Perkins Carpenter

served as a three-term Board member for The American Red Cross of Tompkins County, chaired the Service to Military Families and is now Tompkins County American Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer Coordinator. Her commitment to the Red Cross for fifty years has been strong despite staff changes and regionalization of several services.

She has also shared her talent as a person who crochets and knits as an RSVP volunteer for 19 years, knitting for Cayuga Medical Center, Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Franziska Racker Centers, Lansing United Methodist Church and Cayuga Ridge.

Sis has demonstrated over the years an extraordinary commitment to her community, serving on too many committees and organizations to list.



"Wonderful Wheelchairs" Honorees

Wonderful Wheelchairs is a volunteer organization that is sponsored by RSVP. The group was created by Carol John and it is staffed by longtime volunteers Monte May and Ardie Bennett, among others. Wonderful Wheelchairs repairs poorly operating wheelchairs and makes them available to persons in the Ithaca area who need them. The group has a well equipped workshop in the basement of Cayuga Ridge, where they have repaired over 200 wheelchairs thus far.

Over 4,000 hours of service has been provided by these wonderful volunteers.

Before this program, when a person needed a wheelchair at Cayuga Ridge, the staff would go to a storage area, search the seventy or so wheelchairs and try to find one that was in good condition, had all its parts, and was clean. The overburdened maintenance staff would do the best they could to keep up. They now have 17 chairs ready so staff members can pick an appropriate wheel chair for a new resident. *Wonderful Wheelchairs* also has refurbished chairs for sale to community members at low cost.

For more information about Wonderful Wheelchairs, call 607-351-1655 or visit http://wonderfulwheelchairs.org.

County Clerk



(Find and Assist Vets of Record)

Ever thought to yourself, "Gee. What can I do to show members of the armed forces that I appreciate all they've done and are doing for us?" Well, the Tompkins County Clerk's Office has decided to use our efforts to obtain valuable discounts from local retailers, vendors, professional offices, for all such veterans. The first step was to produce an endorsing document, executed by your County Administrator and your County Clerk.

Within a few days after we mailed letters to business people explaining our goal and requesting that they participate, we received FIFTY (50) applications setting forth percentage discounts and/or specific sums of money and/or services to be performed, on behalf of and available to "card-carrying" Veterans of Record.

At this writing, I.D. cards are being designed for printing and for delivery to those vets who come to our office to apply. How do we know if they are veterans? Well, upon discharge from military service, each individual is given a "DD-214." Those documents (in most cases) are presented to the County Clerk for recording. If recorded in Tompkins County, we can immediately ascertain validity; if recorded in a different county, a certified copy of the DD-214 will be proof of eligibility.

For viewing an updated Participant List (of those businesses signed up), log on to www.tompkins-co.org/cclerk . Further information is also contained on that website. Do you have a service to offer, or do you sell a product you can discount in this program? If so, complete the "Merchant Application Form," found on that site.

It warms my heart to see the enthusiasm for this program evidenced by staff of the Tompkins County Clerk's Office. To them, I say, "Thank you for your efforts to build what I know will be a dynamite program celebrating and rewarding members of the Armed Services of the United States."

"On the Road Again"

On May 2, Tompkins County took the first of three 2012 Naturalization Ceremonies on the road to the Lansing Middle School in the Town of Lansing, wherein 47 applicants from 26 countries of the world became citizens of the United States of America.

The ceremonies that are intermittently held at educational institutions in our county are primarily presentations of its students, faculty and staff. The students submit essays to their teachers on the subject of "Being an American Citizen." Several of those essays are presented to the County Clerk, from which three are submitted to the Presiding Justice a few days before the event. The winner of this year's essay contest and the speaker at the ceremony was Middle School student, Michael Bashta, who read his essay, "America the Beautiful."

Presentation of flags was an awesome and heart-warming commencement of the ceremony, after which the Lansing High School Strings orchestra played, "The Star Spangled Banner." The Lansing High School Strings Orchestra was absolutely professional in their musical presentations during the event, including prelude and postlude music, and the popular, "America the Beautiful."

Upon information and belief, there wasn't a dry eye in the place by the time the newest citizens of the U.S. received their Certificates of Naturalization at the conclusion of the ceremony. The congratulatory individuals who presented those certificates were Honorable Robert C. Mulvey, Justice of the Supreme Court, Mr. Jamie Thomas, Principal of Lansing Middle School, and Aurora R. Valenti, Tompkins County Clerk.

The County Clerk and her staff look forward to more "On the Road Again" presentations in the years ahead. The clerk hereby extends her warm thanks to those fabulous people in her office, without whom these ceremonies could not so wonderfully be put together.

Highway Highlights... submitted by Geri Lockwood, Administrative Assistant

Thank you, Cheryl!

Although Cheryl Nelson was the Interim (first female) Highway Manager for a short five months, she did an amazing job while in the position, and the Highway staff would like to say, "Thank you, Cheryl, you will be greatly missed!"

We also wish her the best in her future endeavors, whether it be a full-time retiree and grandmother, or another position of employment. Whatever the future has in store for her, we know that she will do a wonderful job.



Roadside Mowing ~

When traveling down the road, have you ever noticed that when the roadsides are mowed it is so much easier to spot deer and other wildlife, and even domestic animals, headed into the roadway? You may have encountered this situation yourself or know of someone who has.

The Highway Division performs roadside mowing on County Roads twice a year, or "season." However, roadside vegetation grows all season long and does not "wait" for the crew (of two) to mow.





If everyone would consider taking the time to mow in front of, and when appropriate, beside and across from, their property, motorists may be able to spot the encroaching animals in time to stop and avoid colliding with them. These collisions are usually worse for motorcycle operators.

This roadside mowing would not even need to be done each time routine mowing operations are performed; maybe every other or third time would be very helpful to motorists.

Although not all animal/vehicle collisions will be avoided if everyone mowed their property's section of roadside, it may be helpful to motorists. I know that I very much appreciate and wish to thank those of you who do!

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KIDDING AROUND - Youth Services

CAMP GUIDE BENNETT
TEENS EMPLOYMENT
RECREATION DAVE
VITAL COMMUNITIES SCHOOLS

VITAL COMMUNITIES SCHOOLS
HENDRIX JOHNSON
ALBERT PARNTERSHIP
EMPLOYMENT OJ GUIDE

DRUG TASK FORCE KIDS

ZOOK BONUS: NAME OF BUILDING YOUTH
SERVICES LOCATED (ABBREV.)

(Answers on Page 14)

Employee Spotlight

Tom Paolangeli

Tom Paolangeli is the Deputy Democratic Commissioner for the Board of Elelctions. Tom has worked for the County for nine years, serving as Senior Elections Clerk (2003-04) before becoming Deputy Commissioner.

Tom responded to the following questions from *County Corridors*:

What do you do here (your job duties)?

A little bit of everything and anything it takes to make elections run smoothly (Supervise Machine Techs, Webmaster for BOE site, Admin for Overseas Voters, Media Releases, etc.).

What do you like best about your job?

Solving problems, Finding more cost effective or efficient ways to get our work done.

What do you like best about your job?

Any repetitive tasks.

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

Write.

My latest outside of work projects are self-publishing eBooks and starting a blog. A few years ago, I wrote a humor column for the Ithaca Times, and I have published an eBook called "Tom's Two Cents: A Collection of Columns." A few columns had to do with working at the BOE, so might be of interest to County employees.

I've also published two novels. One is a spiritual comedy called "A Cadillac for Jesus", and another is a thriller/suspense called "The Light Amid the Darkness." Go to www.tompaolangeli.com for more information about the books and the blog.), read, and hang out on the back deck with my sweetie!

Congratulations to Tom!

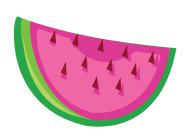
Tom is #8 on the humor book list on Amazon with this parody of" Fifty Shades of Grey!"

Check out the following link:

http://www.amazon.com/Secret-Guide-Fifty-Shadesebook/dp/B0080RDFRU/ref=sr 1 1?s=bo oks&ie=UTF8&qid=1340305231&sr=1-1&keywords=the+guys+secret+guide+to +fifty

If you ran the world, what is the first thing you would do?

Whatever it takes to make sure no child ever goes to bed hungry. If that means less fancy cars, yachts, and vacation homes for the rest of us, so be it.



Kudos Korner

Dianna Schooley Recognized With State Award

Dianna Schooley, Office for the Aging, was one of three people from across New York State recognized for outstanding service on behalf of low-income energy customers by the New York State Public Service Commission and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The achievement awards were announced at the 2012 Low-Income Forum on Energy (LIFE) Statewide Conference, an annual conference for individuals at the state, county and local levels who provide services to low-income residents. The LIFE Achievement Award winners are nominated by their peers across the state.

Dianna was called an "unsung hero" for her 20-plus years of caring interactions with people, her skills at resolving conflict, and her expertise in helping low-income seniors find energy-saving solutions.



Also recognized were Kate Granger of Baldwinsville, National Grid, and Andrew Stone of Whitesboro, New York State Weatherization Directors Association.

"The individuals singled out today represent the critical communication path that community leaders provide in sharing essential information that can help low-income New Yorkers maintain their utility service during these economically challenging times," said PSC Chairman Garry Brown.

The LIFE program is sponsored by the PSC in cooperation NYSERDA to encourage an interactive exchange of information and collaboration among those involved in assisting low-income energy customers.

Congratulations, Dianna!

Foster Care Month Celebration

President Barack Obama declared May, 2012 as National Foster Care Month in order to shed light on the experiences of children and youth in the foster care system this country. The campaign raises awareness about the urgent needs of these young people, including approximately 160 in care locally, and encourages citizens from every walk of life to get involved – as foster or adoptive parents, volunteers, mentors, employers or in other ways. It also allowed us to salute the over 100 foster homes in Tompkins County, and let the

community know that more are urgently needed, especially for teenagers and sibling groups.



The Celebration Cake



Maryanne Banks, Director of Services, and Joylene Black, Children's Services staff, hand out door prizes

A celebration event was held on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at the Museum of the Earth that included dinner, door prizes and other activities. Close to 100 people attended, consisting of families who provide foster care services and the children in their care, as well dedicated caseworkers and staff.

This event was 100% supported by members of the community through donations of money and gifts. A huge thank you to Foster Parents, Social Services staff, businesses and individuals in Tompkins County for making this event a huge success!

Debbie McKane, Sr. Caseworker Adoption and Homefinding, DSS



Trips and/or events are available to all Tompkins County Employees & Retirees, and their families.

Darien Lake Day Trip











Adventure

Info to be determined - keep checking the website, www.tompkins-co.org/employee only/VendingCommitteeNews.pdf, for updates, or contact Anne Drake, at 274-6301, or e-mail to adrake@tompkins-co.org.

New York City Winter Day Trip, Saturday, December 1, 2012









Skyline

\$40.00/person Cost:

7:00 a.m. SHARP! (From the Tompkins County Public Works Facility on Bostwick Road.) **Depart:**

Around noon, at Bryant Park (41st Street and 6th Ave.) or Macy's (34th St. and 7th Ave.). **Arrive:**

You're on your own to explore the vast and exciting city, and enjoy your own interests.

From Bryant Park ONLY, at 8:00 p.m. **Depart:**

Back in Ithaca around midnight. Arrive:

Minimum of 40 people needed to make this trip possible. E-mail or call Anne Drake, at adrake@tompkins-co.org, or 274-

6301, now for reservations or for additional information.

Accepted through Monday, November 19th. **Reservations & Payment:**

Save the date-Save the date-Save the date-Save the date

18th Annual 2012 Employee Golf Tournament



FRIDAY SEPT. 7th, 2012

REGISTRATION 8:15, TEE-OFF @

9:00 a.m. (fringe time to be used)

Location:

Trumansburg Golf Course Halsey Street, Trumansburg

- 4 Person Team, Captain and Crew Cost: \$49 per person (\$196 per team)
- Shot Gun Start
- Team Format: Must have at least 2 County Employees (or former employees) on the 4 person team
- Team can include employees from various departments
- BBQ Dinner after golf
- Prizes for everyone!

Save the date-Save the date-Save the date-Save the date-

Classified Ads

Dog Dayz Inn

A place where your dog feels"at home".

Located in North Lansing Sandy Strehle, 315-497-3467 dogdayzinn@yahoo.com http://www.dogdayzinn.com



FOR SALE – Bengal kittens, a cross between an Asian Leopard and domestic short hair cat. They are very active with a very nice temperament. These cats are very rare in this area, and we have the mother and father on sight. If you are interested, please do your own research on these great WILD-looking pets. We have 3 males and 1 female, for \$800 each. Please email tambernhardt@gmail.com, or call (607) 898-4909. You can view more photos on our Facebook page, Spotted Pets.







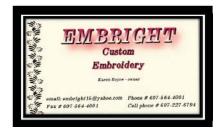
FOR SALE – Gas range, works great and is in very good condition, color white (switched to electric). \$150.00. Please call (607) 838-3748 evenings or weekends.

FOR SALE – Sleeper sofa, ivory-colored cotton, 6' long, excellent condition. \$200.00. Please call (607) 277-5857, evenings..

FOR SALE – ACER A500 Android operating system, 10.1" tablet with USB regular-sized port and SD card slot. \$165.00. Please call (607) 259-2282.





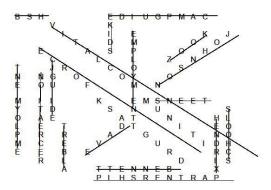


Custom Embroidery for everyone's needs. We work with other businesses, organization/groups, and the general public. We can use your design or work together to come up with a design. It's a great way to advertise your business or organization, or if you just need a gift for someone. We embroider on clothing, hats, bags, and much more.

FOR RENT – 3-bedroom upper duplex available now. 1 mile from IC front entrance and 2 miles from The Commons. On bus route, wall-to-wall carpet, washer and dryer included, off-street private parking, large backyard, and small deck. No pets. \$1,300/month plus utilities. Please call (607) 592-3391.

FOR RENT – 2-bedroom lower duplex available now. 1 mile from IC front entrance and 2 miles from The Commons. On bus route, wall-to-wall carpet, off-street private parking, and shared large backyard. No pets. \$800/month plus utilities. Please call (607) 592-3391.

ANSWERS TO "THE PUZZLE" on Page 9



THE CORRIDORS TEAM

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Geri Lockwood, Highway
Editorial Staff
Maureen Reynolds, County Clerk's Office
Katrina Schickel, COFA
Classifieds Editor - Geri Lockwood
Advising Editor, Page Layout
Marcia Lynch, Public Information
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All County Employees and Retirees
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Contact Geri at
274-0314 or glockwood@tompkins-co.org