

## Hillary campaign touches down locally

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out," she said. The federal government approved Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds for Oswego County Friday to help with snow-related expenses.

She said FEMA will begin assessing the county's needs this week.

"It will come down to what it cost the municipalities and the school districts," she said.

She praised the "terrific sense of community" the area showed during the storms. "I don't want to see you go into debt," she said.

### Strategic Energy Fund

"Tomorrow I will introduce legislation to create a Strategic Energy Fund," Clinton said at Northeast Biofuels.

The fund will channel \$50 billion into clean-energy research and development.

That money will come principally from putting an end to tax breaks for big oil companies.

"We want to challenge them to invest their profits in alternative energies. If they don't, maybe we'll tax their profits," she said.

Locally, the fund will complement the new plant's effort to produce alternative fuel from local raw materials such as corn.

### Triple win

Clinton said Northeast Biofuels will be a "triple win" for the area in terms of:

- national security: "It's no longer good for our security to be subsidizing regimes (through purchase of oil) that take our money and plot against us";

- the economy: "Northeast Biofuels will create new, good jobs";

- the environment: "The debate is over. Climate change is real."

### Ahead of schedule

Doug MacKenzie, president of Northeast Biofuels' partner Permolex, said Northeast Biofuels is "moving along" toward production.

"Some things are ahead of schedule," he said. "In October, November or December we'll be producing our first ethanol," he said.

The projected start date for production had been December.

"I can't wait to come back and see everything in production," Clinton said with a smile.

Company spokesman Stew Hancock said 75 workers are on site now. "That will go up to 500 as we move toward production," he said.

Clinton's Oswego County visit was the last leg of her trip Monday to the Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse areas to discuss New York's energy needs.

## Council makes city's nuisance law 'more logical'

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receive another," said Dehm, noting how that would put a property over the point limit under the original wording. As amended, "it gives us a little leeway. It will be helpful," said Dehm.

Currently no properties have surpassed the point limits or received fines, but Dehm said that there are a couple that are reaching the threshold.

In other business:

- A public hearing has been set for March 12 concerning the police chief's authority to temporarily suspend the use of sidewalks for the sale of merchandise within four feet of a business' building. The vote passed by a 5-2 margin, with Councilor Dick Atkins, D-7th Ward, voting against, saying that the chief already possesses the power to suspend use

of the sidewalk if it causes congestion or chaos. "I don't think we should be penalizing any of our merchants," said Atkins.

Councilor Ed Harrington, D-3rd Ward, asserted that the chief would not abuse this power. "I would give the chief any power short of suspending the Constitution if it helps control the crowds during Harborfest," he said.

- A new committee to address snow shoveling, snow plowing, snow removal, and any parking issues related to the snow continues its formation with Harrington as its chairperson. He asked any interested residents who would like to be a part of the committee to contact him. He also cited a sidewalk on West Second Street, between Bridge and Cayuga streets, that is not shoveled and impassable as a reason the committee is forming.



Members of Girl Scout Troop 995 complete a badge with the assistance of chef Michael Cali at The American Foundry. Pictured from left are Emily Mills, Kaylee Schleicher, Caitlyn McRae, Samantha Hutchinson, Olivia

## Girl Scouts get a taste of the world

Girl Scout Troop 995 from Minetto Elementary School recently visited The American Foundry. Chef Michael Cali helped the girls complete their "Let's Get Cooking" badge by working on the section about international foods.

Cali discussed different cultures and how

food is a major part of each. He talked about the ingredients (especially spices), the preparation of and the serving of the food.

While at the Foundry, the scouts got to taste foods from five different countries, tour the facility, learn about event planning and dance under the lights.

## Can county afford to increase 911 staff? Can it afford not to?

By SARAH McCROBIE

Staff Writer

Four years ago the Oswego County Legislature voted to cut several jobs at the Oswego 911 Center as a cost-saving measure. Now, with fewer people per shift, the county's 911 director Michael Allen is asking the Legislature to add staff to prevent inefficiency associated with a smaller crew.

At Monday's Public Safety and Emergency Services Legislature Committee meeting, Allen asked legislators to consider a proposal for hiring additional employees. Allen stressed that the 911 center has eight fewer employees than 10 years ago, which creates additional responsibilities for the staff, he said. "The reality is that requests for information, call volume, and radio traffic has increased in the past 10 years; couple this with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD system) (and) mapping tasks, all of which puts additional strain on a core group that has decreased in size in that same period," Allen noted.

Currently, there are 24 full-time employees at the 911 center, with four part-time workers who fill open shifts due to sickness and vacation requests. Six people man a full shift, and the center policy mandates that no fewer than five people work a shift, making it difficult to man the floor adequately when employees go on lunch break

or have to use the bathroom, Allen said.

To maintain an efficient work environment, Allen proposed to add one dispatcher to each shift, which would equal a total of four additional employees. "These people would aid in maintaining minimum staff requirements for the operation of the floor, free up individuals for continual recertification training and help to relieve the critical burden on the dispatch floor," Allen explained.

Legislator Leonard Ponzi, D-Oswego, questioned whether or not there were enough funds in the budget to cover four additional positions. "Who's going to pay for this? I want to table this until we have exact figures and we research this more," Ponzi said.

Committee member Paul Santore, R-Oswego, agreed, noting that the Legislature should look for funding from outside the county. "I think we should pursue with vigor getting some of the money from the state," Santore said. "I don't believe that taking the money out of our constituents' pockets is the way to pay for this."

The committee, unsure of the financial impact the four new positions would have on the budget, voted to table the issue until next month's meeting. "We'll wait a month, see what happens," said committee chairman Tom Bullard, R-Scriba. "There may be other avenues we can look at."

## Scriba board accepts bid for trash collection service

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inpatient services in favor of becoming an urgent care center.

"I personally think we should support keeping it," said Burdick. "It would be a real loss to the community if it was gone."

The resolution passed by the board cited Lee Memorial's 103 years of service to the community, its 55,000 outpatient visits per year, the \$9 million in investments to its own facility that had been made in the past five years and the hospital's standing as the fourth largest private employer in the City of Fulton as reasons to support the hospital's continuing operation.

Burdick also indicated that a letter would be sent to local state representatives and Gov. Eliot Spitzer in support of the hospital.

Switching gears, Burdick reported that 78 percent of the town's taxes had been collected to date.

"That's better than some of the other towns I have seen in the paper," he said.

The board passed a resolution to authorize Town Recreation Director Kerry Knowlton to send two staff members to the required pool operation management recertification course in Syracuse in late April. The board approved \$800 for the course and expenses. Registration for the course costs \$295 per person.

Approval was given to Knowlton for the purchase of a new Nordic Track Treadmill at an estimated cost of \$2,846.

"We have repaired the old

treadmill as much as we could," said Canale. "This is one of the most used pieces of equipment we have and it will get a lot of use."

A resolution to authorize Burdick to enter into an agreement and sign all related documents with the DOT regarding \$50,000 that was recently awarded to the Town of Scriba was passed. The money will be used to install new fuel tanks and assist with electrical upgrades associated with the fuel system.

A transfer of funds in the amount of \$500,000 in order to pay for related costs for the construction of a new salt dome maintenance facility was approved. The board voted in December to accept the low bid of \$464,800 from C & S Engineering for the project.

"Any leftover money from the project will go back into the maintenance reserve," Burdick said. "We want to make sure we have enough money to pay for this and that is why the amount is high. I anticipate money to be left over."

An additional \$200,000 was transferred for the construction of a fuel island maintenance facility.

Town Attorney Kevin Caraccioli recommended that the board pass a resolution to approve entering a five-year contract agreement with the City of Oswego for continued sewer and water service.

The agreement will

include a 1.5 percent increase in water and sewer fees each year for the next five years.

"Currently town residents pay about 70 cents per thousand gallons of water and \$194 annually for sewer," Caraccioli said. "This agreement would not affect other agreements the Town of Scriba has with the Town of New Haven which it supplies water and sewer service to."

Canale moved to accept the tentative contract agreement and was supported by board member David Girard.

Steve Lewandowski of the Lake Ontario Costal Initiative (LOCI) addressed the Scriba Town Board last September to update them on progress made on phosphorous studies on 320 miles of Lake Ontario shoreline. The area covers 44 municipalities and has found rising levels of phosphorous along the shoreline.

"We would like to extend this study to the rest of the New York State Lake Ontario shoreline and are asking municipalities including the Town of Scriba to support us in our requests for new research grants through the State of New York in the coming months," Lewandowski said.

The board ended the meeting by approving a resolution to support the LOCI in their request for a state grant of \$10,000 for member allocation to continue LOCI remediation, research and outreach programs.

## ARC of Oswego County begins membership campaign

ARC of Oswego County announces the beginning of its annual membership campaign. The March membership campaign coincides with the national celebration of Mental Retardation Awareness Month and the New York State celebration of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

ARC of Oswego County, one of 55 countywide Chapters of NYSARC Inc., is a private, not-for-profit organization working with and for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families throughout Oswego County. Its parent organization, NYSARC Inc. is a statewide organization that provides support and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities.

Membership in a NYSARC chapter allows the organization to achieve its goal of providing quality programs, services and opportunities for New York State citizens who have developmental disabilities.

For more information on how you can become a member of the local chapter, contact Dorée Kellogg at 598-3108. For information on programs offered by ARC of Oswego County, visit [www.arcofswegocounty.org](http://www.arcofswegocounty.org).

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