

March 09, 2010

Honorable Chairman Reid, honorable members of the County Legislature, and all residents of Rensselaer County, I am honored to present the annual State of the County message, an address, I might add, which comes at an extremely critical time, as we wage our battle to preserve our services in the face of a dwindling economy. Now, more than ever, we are responsibly put to the test of administering our resources in a fiscally conservative manner that reflects the wishes of every taxpayer in our County, their bottom line being to receive quality services at the most affordable cost possible. This, to my way of thinking, is not an unreasonable request, since it is their money that we expend for these services through the taxes that they pay. There is a message that this administration is not only hearing now, but one which we have consistently adhered to since assuming this office, nearly nine years ago. We remain mindful that if we responsibly take care of the public's business, we preserve the public's trust, for after all is said and done we in public office work for the public at large.

In essence, in the fight for lower taxes through efficient spending, as your County Executive, I have the duty to continue my philosophy of running a tight ship within the County. This is accomplished by coordination, consolidation and cooperation through sharing services as well as knowledge within county government and with other municipalities. This assures that dependability and affordability result in fewer costs to our residents across the board, regardless of where they live.

And as our nation struggles with a dwindling economy, Rensselaer County is no exception. As is always true when times are tough, your county government, like no other level of local government, is depended upon more and more by more and more people to receive services county government provides, thus requiring more cash management and cash funding challenges that in turn place further pressure on our government.

THE ECONOMY

At this point I find it appropriate to illustrate this economic decline with specific reference to events that are impacting our County. These show definite signs of problems to be reckoned with and dealt with. To begin, the Department of Social Services shows a record increase in the number of Medicaid recipients these past eighteen months, with a record high of over 23,000 clients through December of last year. This means that **one of every seven Rensselaer County residents is now on Medicaid.** Moving on, our County also reports an over 15% increase in Food Stamp recipients since 2008, with nearly 16,000 participating, also a record high. And a 22.3% increase in individuals in the state mandated

Safety Net program also is a firm indicator of a dramatic increase in those needing assistance. It is easy to see why people are saying that times are not good.

Additionally, on a seemingly optimistic note, our Temporary Assistance to Needy Families caseload rate remains fairly consistent, which unfortunately could well be due only to the continuing extension of unemployment benefits throughout the year, and when these benefits end, could mean a dramatic upswing of applicants in this area which would further stretch a system of human services already wound extremely tight. So, unfortunately, even good news at first appearance could be bad news in the long run.

And as we examine other signs of economic downturn, that either directly or indirectly financially bring pressure on your county government, therefore its taxpayers, it is duly noted that the number of residents stopping at our Department of Employment and Training One-Stop Center has increased 150% since 2008. Additionally, our Civil Service Commission reports that approximately 1,500 people applied for Civil Service testing in 2009. These general signs when looked at from the broad perspective of 2009 unemployment rates that reached the highest level in at least two decades is a firm indicator that there will no doubt be more and more demands on government to fill the void of lost or diminished paychecks.

THE STATE

To make matters worse, in the face of the current fiscal problems that affect our families, our friends, our communities and conceivably our future, our state government insists on spending more than it takes in. I mention this as a definite factor as to how we survive as a county, as it impacts us tremendously. Purely and simply, the State refuses to realize that revenue shortage is a problem that cannot be solved by overestimating revenues, or mandating more taxes and more fees on the state and county levels to force the taxpaying public to fund increasingly costly mandated programs, while refusing to cut the costs of these programs. This is irresponsibility at best. It is true that stimulus funding has somewhat plugged the hole by serving as an infusion for immediate needs, but ultimately it is a Band-Aid approach to a tourniquet matter, and has only delayed the reality of the need for the State to truly economize.

As the State reports a budget gap of nearly nine billion dollars this year with the following year estimated to be a deficit of between \$18 billion and \$20 billion, it is easy and at the same time sad to draw a picture of a state that loves to drink fine wine but can really only afford beer, but nevertheless refuses to sacrifice its acquired taste. Our residents are economizing, budgeting and prioritizing by substituting hamburger for steak. Why can't they?

To assure that its palate was properly pleased, the State balanced its 2009 budget to a large extent by shifting costs to the County, therefore our property taxpayers. Reimbursement for the cost of the state's housing of inmates at our county jail, who were already sentenced to state institutions and were awaiting placement, was eliminated, as was funding for administration of the state's STAR program, funding for Empire Zone administration, and funding for public health preparedness. Reductions in funding were also imposed by the State in other departments, the Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office being two examples. And to no one's surprise, least of all mine, despite these decreases in state funding the State does not decrease the mandates.

And as they attempt to balance their books on the backs of our county taxpayers, another example of shifting occurred just last month when Rensselaer along with Albany, Saratoga, Washington and Warren counties were sent operating expense bills totaling approximately \$4.5 million to raise money for the Hudson River Black River Regulating District, a New York State public benefit corporation that, as overseer of Great Sacandaga Lake for eighty years due to a law passed by the State Legislature, has paid for the regulating staff as well as the school taxes in the affected communities whose land was taken to form the lake. Long story short, a federal court ruled that hydropower producers did not have to pay benefit assessments of the district anymore and the State, rather than fund the shortfall, passed it on to the five counties mentioned closest down the river. Here we have a regulating district, created by the State for a purpose that the State saw as necessary that apparently the State will not fund. So who is next in line to pay the bills? Apparently, the counties. But that's a shifting of responsibility that I intend to continue fighting!

Locally, we are facing a \$14 million budget gap for this next fiscal year, due partially to maneuvers similar to the ones I have mentioned, which would force a 25% property tax increase. I am certain that we all realize that we cannot allow this dramatic increase to happen. To put the reason for this gigantic potential increase in perspective, along with the ever increasing mandated programs and the shifting of funding responsibility from the State to the County for their programs, we must look at the over \$21.2 million in personnel benefits for county employees forecast for 2011, which represents 41% of the county payroll as opposed to \$9.9 million, representing 26% of the payroll in 2004. This rise is in good part due to health insurance increases, but dramatically due to retirement cost increases, the local costs going up because of state investment losses on Wall Street. The cold hard fact is that the cost associated with these items and others cannot be legally altered. Therefore, the costs remain constant despite the negative economic climate we live in. Thus, you have the reality that unless something is done to lessen the local burden, as the stock market goes

down, local taxes will go up, a teeter totter that is certainly a bad signal for business as well as the taxpayer.

As your County Executive, I routinely monitor the ongoing budgetary process on the state level, as my staff and I engage in our own budget process which formulates my county budget proposal. Normally, I begin this process in July, but I initiated it a few months ago, in light of the current fiscal climate. And as far as keeping a watchful eye on the State, it is becoming more and more critical to do so in order to be forewarned of any and all attempts that they might place into motion to force us to fund additional programs, or pay for their operating expenses as they clean their backyards at our expense and ultimately the expense of our taxpayers. Obviously additional shifting or mandating of services to the County to either partially or wholly fund would have a dramatic effect on our overall fiscal structure and would impact each and every one of us. Currently, 90¢ of every local tax dollar collected is turned over to the State to pay for their mandated programs, a steady increase over the past couple of years, as big government grows during a sour economy that does not give us the wherewithal to collect the tax revenues necessary to keep pace with the growing spending habits. We simply have a tough time paying the mandated bills we receive now. It is beyond belief if we are saddled with more of the state's expenses to pay.

In the face of this potential impact, by controlling what we can control, we will be working very hard to continue to trim more and more from our county budget proposal, which will not be easy, since we cannot impede our delivery of local services. To date, during my nearly nine years of service as County Executive, I have cut over \$36 million of departmental spending requests through cooperation and consolidation within the structure of county government. I further note that at my direction the Bureau of Budget continues to work with departments to limit travel requests, equipment purchases, and requests to fill personnel vacancies in only the most essential positions and have engaged in numerous projects to share services with other municipalities. As a result, thankfully, much of what is happening now and is being planned for in the future in the area of shared services both inside and outside county government does not constitute a governmental revolution but due to our ongoing efforts through the years is more of an evolution, as we continue to honor our commitment to fiscal austerity and accountability, with the taxpayer the ultimate beneficiary. In other words, what we are doing is not startlingly new.

We have talked about the recession that we are currently in and have been for a time, and a state government that is burying its head in the sand when it comes to fiscal stability and accountability, but when it comes right down to it, we must move positively through these times and do whatever we can to represent the people whom we serve. We must work with other municipalities and share

services not only within the structure of our own county government, but with other municipalities as well, never losing sight of collectively working for the good of the people we serve.

SHARING SERVICES

Our task to answer our challenge is formidable but so also is our commitment and resolve. We realize, and would hope that other levels of government realize as well, that being committed to fiscal accountability through internal action within the entities as well as sharing services with other municipalities, schools and organizations is the only answer to a fiscally responsible and solvent future. A few examples show our commitment, all having one thing in common, that being to save the taxpayers money by working together.

Foremost in our planning of intra agency cooperation on the county human services level is our Human Services Cabinet, led by our Commissioner of Mental Health and including department heads of Aging, Employment and Training, Health, Probation, Social Services and Youth. Their function is to identify opportunities to reduce the service costs while maintaining access, and basically develop a management plan to serve more effectively and efficiently during these tough fiscal times. The Cabinet also provides a great opportunity to eliminate the problem of duplication of services before they even start by simply comparing notes.

When we are talking dollars saved, as we work to provide less cost in government, we note the closure of our non-secure detention facility, which is the last of the upstate facilities of its kind. This will save the taxpayers approximately \$250,000 the first three years of this proposal and the facility will be replaced with intervention targeted to the individual, including GPS/electronic monitoring, with contracting of non-secure beds only when necessary. This has been enhanced by the cooperation of our Family Court as well.

In another money saving, or I should say retrieving matter, we are currently engaged in Medicaid fraud detection with eleven other upstate counties through coordination and cooperation in sharing information on successful strategies to help each other to detect inappropriate Medicaid spending. As for fraud detection itself, thanks to our Social Services Department and the somewhat limited authority granted to us by our state government, with three years of analysis locally under our belts, we have already recovered nearly three quarters of a million dollars of misspent money, with potentially more to come.

And when you are talking about sharing knowledge and services, to be more and more cost effective, we cannot forget our Bureau of Research and Information Service's (BRIS) role in continuing to automate processes and share

data to provide better services at less cost to our taxpayers. As far as internal cooperation, I should mention BRIS's involvement with Tourism and the Bureau of Economic Development and Planning to help in the development and administration of Planning and Tourism websites along with numerous other departmental web pages, with the end result to be the continued exposure of our County as the place to be. This will only enhance our sales tax collections and business revenue to further relieve the residents of their tax burden. And the drumbeat of internal coordination roles on, as BRIS works with Probation to develop an automated Case Management System that will be accessible to all Probation Officers at their desktop computer and even more importantly, on their laptop computer when in the field. It is also worth mentioning that BRIS worked with our Bureau of Finance to improve the timing of information available to departments for their review and revenue claiming, a definite step forward in assuring continual fiscal responsibility.

And we see the affect BRIS has on our communities, as they have worked with our Bureau of Finance and Tax Services to serve tax collectors throughout the County, by using updated software to track tax collections, eliminating time consuming tasks of handwriting collection rolls, while at the same time saving the County time and therefore money, as we will no longer have to manually update records in our database.

And while we are discussing our ability to dedicate ourselves as a County to making things better and more fiscally prudent through cooperation and coordination and commitment, let us not forget to mention the effort of the Environmental Management Council's program of recycling of office paper which not only saves trees but also returns money to the County. Through a concerted effort we have increased the quantity of recycled office paper by 12% between 2007 and 2009. Allow us also to acknowledge our need to revise our current procedures to reflect today's more electronic environment. Currently, Central Services reports that more than 340,000 pieces of mail were processed by the County in 2009, a significant increase from the previous year. This is a very real factor in the current cost of doing the business of government. The answer and a high priority of ours is to promote e-mail with outside organizations as the chief medium of county communication which should save thousands of dollars. And let it be known that the Public Defender continues his extensive use of law students and volunteers to supplement personnel, as well as instituting a screening system to determine financial eligibility of potential clients for public defender services to assure that only those deserving of representation receive it. It is also worth mentioning the enhanced computerization at our Van Rensselaer Manor that, among other things, will go a long way in easing the sharing of patient information among staff, thus saving time.

And the list goes on and on of examples of departments trying hard to work within our fiscal parameters while searching for sensible cost saving programs within and outside of our departments and agencies.

Yes, I think that we are quietly working hard to make a difference not only in the County but in the respective communities. We are finding better and more efficient ways to get the job done. And as we have emphasized shared services that occur in virtually all of our departments as our County network of cooperation works hard to maintain certain equilibrium within our County, we must be cognizant of our ability to also work with other communities and counties as well as the State and other providers.

One of the key examples of working with others as we share services and knowledge is our Stop-DWI program and our Underage Drinking Coalition as we interface with members of the Parents Who Host Coalition, and the State Environmental Protection Task Force that are both multi-county, as well as our Local Law Enforcement sub-committee and our Traffic Safety Board. Also we should note our DWI road patrols, checkpoints and saturation patrols throughout the County, with an OASAS grant administered by both Stop-DWI and Mental Health to assist with underage compliance checks as well. We share the mutual goal of safe sober highways, as we work to achieve this goal in direct and coordinated efforts that pay dividends in lives saved. And if you are looking for a coordinated effort, you only have to look back as far as our New Year's Eve Safe Ride Program, in which our Stop-DWI office, as well as our Bureau of Public Safety, Community Emergency Response Team, Netter's Fund, and our County Sheriff's Department contributed to its success.

It should be mentioned that our Civil Service Commission serves all our municipalities, with the exception of Troy and Rensselaer who have their own commissions, as it not only provides technical assistance, but continues to provide one-on-one training in Civil Service administration to officials and administrators of towns, villages and school districts. And as we mention school districts, it is also worthwhile to note that in the School Community Partnership, all county schools meet with county agencies including our Department of Social Services to discuss current service programs, special activities, and student specific issues. In essence, we care about our youth and are working together to achieve good results for them and the community.

And if you want to see another fine example of true interaction with other government entities, you only have to witness the shared work that was done by our Highway Department and Department of Engineering over the year with various municipalities. This includes providing equipment for paving projects, and assisting with technical and equipment support on town bridge replacement

projects, as well as working on a joint storm drainage project. Additionally, among a host of many examples, during the winter the County continued formal cooperative snow removal agreements with the Towns of Brunswick, Poestenkill, East Greenbush, and Schaghticoke, and the City of Troy, while during the third wettest summer on record we worked together with the towns of Stephentown, Nassau, Berlin, and Petersburg to address the necessity for severe flood damage repair. And speaking of water in a more positive light, I note that our Water and Sewer Authority is working with East Greenbush and Rensselaer to improve their water system and is also working with East Greenbush to address their sewer capacity in conjunction with the county sewer district, as we take action today for a better tomorrow.

In essence, we are involved when needed and when it is in the best interest of the public, just as our Department of Aging, in conjunction with Albany, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties, have pooled funds distributed to the four aging departments to contract with SUNY in developing a workshop to assist seniors in signing up for Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. And in conjunction with the open enrollment period for Medicare Part D and the opening of the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), the department held HEAP and Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) information sessions in various municipalities. We are trying to make lives easier, particularly during these challenging economic times by being helpful.

As earlier mentioned, indeed we work with other interested organizations throughout the County. Such is the fact with what has become a biennial series of breakfast meetings, a co-effort with the Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce to reach out to the business owners of the County to grasp a better understanding of what the hurdles of doing business in today's climate are and what can be done about them. And these meetings have not only given us some things to think about, but actions have been taken as well, such as, in response to a comment at one of the meetings, we applied for federal stimulus money to expand broadband network access into unserved and underserved areas of our County, after it was made perfectly clear how difficult it is to maintain a business without computer access in the times that we live in. We listened. We agreed. And we are responding.

All of us have one thing in common, that being that there is nothing more precious to any of us than our own safety and that of our families. And in this regard, when it comes to matters of public safety our Bureau of Public Safety shares municipal services, both inside and outside county government. They and our Health Department work on such matters as the Community Readiness Initiative, the Strategic National Stockpile and Point of Distribution locations. Our Bureau of Public Safety also oversees our dispatch services, all volunteer fire

departments are supported, as well as the police departments of North Greenbush, Nassau, and Schodack on a limited basis with other municipalities being considered. And the City of Troy also enjoys the service at a much lower cost than if they had their own dispatch service. Our Health Department as well spent considerable time working with our healthcare community, school districts and emergency responders to prepare for the H1N1 flu onslaught arranging multiple vaccination clinics throughout the County.

With the counties of Albany and Schenectady, and the cities of Troy, Albany, and Schenectady we have been designated as an Urban Area Work Group (UAWG) to affect a regional approach to addressing homeland security matters, since after all, emergencies all too often know no county boundaries. Through the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program and in conjunction with our UAWG partners, Public Safety, BRIS, Health, and the Sheriff's departments work on emergency communications, disaster response capabilities and equipment, and first responder training, to affect a regional approach to our mutual efforts.

And as we discuss the importance of regional approaches and the importance of shared services and goals, we note the effort engaged in by our Tourism program which we briefly touched on earlier. If we reflect on how raising revenue is important for the solvency of the County and its residents, we know that the continuation of an effective and efficient tourism agenda could very well be the key that opens the door to success. In this regard, we are working with Albany and Saratoga counties as well as those counties in the Hudson Valley such as Columbia, Dutchess, Orange and Westchester in a collaborative effort to publicize our region through joint press releases and specific advertising campaigns, and are currently engaged in farm tours, culinary tours and any other promotions that come to mind to convince people to come see us and see what we have to offer as a community, and even to stay here awhile and maybe grow roots right here in our area.

As far as direct impact on our economy it should also be mentioned that agritourism and farmers markets continue to grow as over 100,000 visitors attend the county's events. This is another incidence of the word getting around about some of the attractive venues that we offer right here in Rensselaer County.

However, we all too often feel that we are alone with other local municipalities in publicizing our attractiveness. As an example, the state's recent action of closing parks in our County was done with absolutely no local input or consultation, despite us requesting such an audience. This seems similar to the mandates that are frequently handed down for us to obey, and shows an unwillingness to listen to local suggestions to better understand our position, before action is taken.

As we talk about serving our taxpayers well, we look to the Bureau of Central Services, as our bidding agency, to save hard earned taxpayer dollars by encouraging municipalities and school districts to purchase together to buy in large quantities and enjoy lower prices. Bidding contracts for propane, other fuels, highway materials, as well as copy paper, and law enforcement vehicles, prove that good things are happening in purchasing materials, and clearly shows the advantage of working with others in the interest of the public good, in this case less taxpayer dollars spent.

Working with others, in countless examples that I have presented, has also been key to our county IDA's success in creating a predictable and stable business environment in the midst of our sluggish economic climate, their work being so critical to our continual survival. Plain and simply, we need jobs to fuel our economy, and community sensitive economic development has been and will always be the key to our ability to keep our fiscal heads above water as we pay for our delivery of services that local residents of Rensselaer County expect, rely on and demand. Without a healthy tax flow, both sales and property, we cannot pay for these services, and without the services we cannot attract suitable industry to develop, expand, and attract new residents to live, shop and work in our County.

This past year we welcomed projects like General Electric Healthcare's \$165 million Digital X-Ray Imaging facility to our County, with 150 high paying manufacturing jobs. Also, another example of progress is that the First Light's \$500 million power generating facility continues to move towards completion with well over 500 construction jobs on any given day generating economic benefit to Rensselaer.

All totaled, the County IDA induced or directly closed over \$200 million worth of projects while creating or retaining about 300 jobs. As a matter of fact, to partially explain the Agency's importance to us, over the past three years, the IDA was involved in over \$1.2 billion in projects while creating and retaining over 3,000 jobs. Our IDA is the first to recognize that we have to continue our progress, particularly during these times.

And as they plant the seeds of development for the future, it is noteworthy to say that the overall performance of the 44 certified businesses that constitute our Empire Zone, remain strong. These businesses have provided an additional 423 jobs in the County over the program's time of existence, and exceeded by over \$350 million the collective predictions of the growth of their businesses, a laudable achievement. Unfortunately, the State has decided that there should be no more Empire Zones program in the State. This action reinforces the fact that we as a County must have a plan of action as independent as possible from the

State, as we can no longer afford to be a casualty of their disjointed policies that seem void of useful future planning.

We all know the importance of working with local municipalities to create the proper business climate for community sensitive growth which is why the IDA has committed close to \$150,000 to our towns to assist in developing master plans. As a direct result of this cooperation, and as discussed earlier, the Rensselaer County Water and Sewer Authority and the Town of East Greenbush have partnered to bond for up to \$14 million in water and sewer improvements in the southern part of our County, which will certainly be a calling card for development, with over \$300 million worth of projects already relying on those improvements when completed.

And while all of this is going on, our Bureau of Economic Development and Planning is working hard with every municipality in the County from everything from assisting with zoning updates, home ownership programs, sponsoring local snowmobiling trail clubs, and to farmland protection funding grants, small cities funding, and traffic studies.

Coordination and sharing of services with other communities is a major ingredient of success as we look to the future and the issues that we face together. This forms a combined spirit of cooperation which comes to the front as we pull together to make things work.

CONCLUSION

As we focus on the future there is no denying that there will be tough decisions to make regarding how we expend our resources during what could well be even tougher fiscal times than those that we are currently enduring.

I cannot stress enough the importance of continuing to contain costs by working hard both within and outside of our county government. In our vision for a better tomorrow, we must remain ahead of the curve in our application of electronic advancement as well as other ongoing efforts that I mentioned previously to consolidate and share services, to save the taxpayers their money. At the same time, we must also realize that cost containment is not by itself, enough to keep pace with the increasing demands for more and more services, demands that are symptomatic of hard times. To supplement our efforts, we must continue to grow our tax base through community sensitive economic development that will satisfy our need for business creation and expansion; with an eye to put more people to work in our communities and encourage our residents to stay here, as others are encouraged to put down their roots in our communities. As we grow our tax base, we grow our communities.

To aid us and in fact be leaders in our goal for continued fiscal accountability I am confident that my department heads and our employees will continue their excellent work and dedication on behalf of our residents. Incidents such as our employees contributing money to charity raised during their dress down days, and our County Clerk, Frank Merola, turning over a surplus of over \$380,000, one of the largest surpluses ever returned by the Clerk's Office, point to a certain flavor and spark that seems to say that yes, we can provide the cooperative spirit so vitally necessary for success.

And as for being on the front lines in our battle for economic solvency, I would like to mention the hundreds of people who have volunteered their time and service to make Rensselaer County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. As always, you have made the difference, at the fire halls, at the ambulance garages, at the nursing home, at our senior centers, and throughout the County, playing a great number of roles in helping make our County the great place to live that it is.

And to the residents of the County, when it is all said and done, it is your government, and as its major stock holders you deserve to be served with the utmost care, understanding and fiscal accountability.

As I have attempted to make clear, it is my judgment that government itself is a series of interrelated cogs that takes a great deal of sharing, coordination and cooperation to run smoothly on all cylinders. I have the utmost confidence that through the excellent work and standards set by our county employees and by continuing to apply ourselves in Rensselaer County as we have for nearly nine years, and as we do in the present, we will secure a brighter future for our children and our children's children.

We must. It is our duty and our responsibility.

Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As County Executive, I would like to thank all of the department heads, their employees, my former Deputy County Executive Michael Slawson, and my present one Chris Meyer for jobs well done.

Everyone worked hard, particularly in this era of doing more with less, through continual cooperation and coordination both within and outside our County government. You have been the implementers of sharing services, as we faced the challenges of continuing to keep the public trust by conducting the public's business in a manner that always put the taxpayer first.

Aging, Carol Rozbosom; Auditor, Tyler Sawyer, Board of Elections, Larry Bugbee and Ed McDonough; Budget, Stacey Farrar; Buildings, Robert Krogh; Central Services, Timothy Holt; Conflict Defender, Sandra McCarthy; County Attorney, Stephen Pechenik; County Clerk, Frank Merola; Cooperative Extension, David Hawley; District Attorney, Richard McNally; Employment and Training, Mary Anne Gronau; Environmental Management, Ann Shaughnessy; Finance, Michael Slawson; Government Relations, Christine Chesley; Highway, Wayne Bonesteel; Human Resources, Tom Hendry; Mental Health, Katherine Maciol; Planning, Robert Pasinella; Probation, Laura Bauer; Public Defender, Jerome Frost; Public Health, Mary Fran Wachunas; Public Information and Operations, Chris Meyer; Public Safety, Kelly Paslow; Sewer District, Gerry Moscinski; Sheriff, Jack Mahar; Research and Information Services, Vincent Ruggiero; Social Services, Randy Hall; Stop DWI, Charles Wojton; Tax Services, Frank Curtis; Unified Family Services, Joseph Cybulski; Van Rensselaer Manor, Robert Beaudoin and Steve Deets; Veterans, Robert Reiter; Youth, Pierce Holt.

Again, my sincere appreciation to the residents of Rensselaer County. We will do every thing to continue to take care of the public's business to the best of our abilities, and I appreciate you placing your trust in us to get the job done.