

# CURRENTS



## Full STEAM Ahead!

Processing fingerprints, collecting evidence, and identifying suspects -- a kind of CSI-STAC -- are part of the course work in an innovative STEAM summer studies camp program at St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) in Sparkill, just one of the education programs supported by O&R this summer.

## O&R Makes the Grade with Support for Education this Summer



In addition to forensics study, other courses in the program included innovative hands-on studies in drone and robotics operation, virtual reality development, mathematics and art. Pictured are students from South Orangetown Middle School, including Michael Hanebuth, right, son of Michele Hanebuth, Director, OR ECC.

The 75 middle school students at St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) never dreamed that they would spend part of their summer vacation participating in a variety of crime scene investigation pursuits. The STAC Summer STEAM program aims to develop in students the 21st century version of problem solving, teamwork, collaboration and communication by making classroom work in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) stimulating, timely and engaging,

O&R has made a \$50,000 donation to St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) to help fund this program over the next two years. “We view the elements of this program as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking,” says Dr. Suzanne Reynolds, assistant dean of STAC’s School of Education and director of the STAC Summer STEAM program. “The end results are students who take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem solving, embrace collaboration and work through the creative process.” O&R’s donation is part of the company’s commitment to promoting educational initiatives that enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning.

## O&R Forges an Alliance with Students Learning about Farming



Orange and Rockland has also contributed \$20,000 to the Rockland Farm Alliance (RFA) to help support the expansion of RFA’s Agricultural Education Program with an initiative aimed at giving low-income students a greater understanding of how their food is grown and how it gets from the field to the table.

The O&R donation will be directed toward assisting the farm in maintaining infrastructure needed to implement, support and maintain a robust, hands-on education program at Cropsey Community Farm, a 25-acre, small-scale working organic farm in New City. Between single site visits by public school classes in the spring and fall, and a summer camp experience for 250 students, RFA has a target outreach audience of 650 students.

RFA Chief Executive Officer **John McDowell** said, “The success of the education program to date led the RFA to recognize the need to expand not only the scope of our offerings but also the populations we serve, connecting more students from underserved areas throughout Rockland County to the Agricultural Education Program during the school year.”



## O&R Helps Send Students Back to School with Dignity

Lastly, Orange & Rockland is also helping support People to People's Back to School with Dignity with a \$15,000 donation. Since 1994, this program has sent thousands of Rockland County's needy children back to school each year ready to succeed. The program expects to distribute about 2,000 backpacks full of school supplies this year.

O&R's Director of Regional and Community Affairs **Neil Winter** and vice president of the People to People Board of Directors, said, "These tools for school can help these students build a bright and enduring future, one in which they and their families can grow and prosper."



Getting ready to distribute more backpacks full of school supplies at People to People are, from left: People to People Executive Director **Diane Serratore**, volunteer **Dale McGovern**, O&R's Director of Regional and Community Affairs **Neil Winter** and vice president of the People to People Board of Directors; and student volunteers from Ramapo and North Highlands High Schools.

## Congratulations to Our Leadership Grads!



Our 2019 leadership graduates are seen here with their program sponsors outside our Spring Valley Operations Center. Pictured, from left, Project Management Department Manager **Suzanne Sweeney**, **Diego Morales**, Gas Operations General Manager **Glenn Meyers**, **Mike Casale**, **Tim Coalla** and General Manager of Electric Operations **Orville Cocking**.

CAG Section Manager **Mike Casale**, Electric Operations Supervisor **Tim Coalla** and Project Manager **Diego Morales** are O&R's 2019 graduates of the civic leadership programs offered across our service territory. Each graduate completed the program in his native county – Mike in Bergen, Tim in Sullivan and Diego in Orange. All three agree that participating in the program broadened their appreciation of the economic and social challenges and opportunities facing their communities. They also say the program left them better equipped to become more meaningfully involved as leaders in their own backyards.

## Changes to Rubber Goods Testing



Rubber goods testing will shift from the current three-month cycle to a six month cycle, beginning September 2. This change was part of the last contract agreement reached between O&R and IBEW Local 503.

This new schedule follows the OSHA 1910.137 standard, which says rubber goods must be electrically tested before first issue and every six months thereafter.

## Nissan Leaf Deal Extended Through September



Considering an electric vehicle? You can save up to \$14,500 off a new Nissan Leaf! Now through **September 30**, you can receive a \$5,000 discount on the 2019 Nissan Leaf or a \$2,500 discount on the Nissan Leaf Plus. Both discounts are off the manufacturer's suggested retail price and cannot be combined with other offers. You could save further by combining this discount with the Federal Electric Vehicle Tax Credit of \$7,500 and the New York State Drive Clean Rebate of \$2,000.

Go to **Conor** to get more information and redeem this offer.

# Travel the World with MAC Next Stop, Europe



The Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) invites you to treat yourself to a taste of European culture and cuisine on **Tuesday, September 19** in the Spring Valley Auditorium.

Doors will open at 11:45 a.m. Food will be served at noon and entertainment will run through 1 p.m. Speak with your supervisor to schedule your attendance and RSVP by **Thursday, September 14** to [MAC@oru.com](mailto:MAC@oru.com).

MAC's *Travel the World* event series is aimed at celebrating the culture of O&R's employees and customers. To learn about MAC and becoming a member, search MAC on [Conor](#).

## Walking With Purpose

Here are two upcoming opportunities for us to walk together and make a difference.

### NICU Strong Walk

Join **Team Owen** and help raise funds for the neonatal intensive care unit at Hackensack Meridian Children's Hospital. Countless children have been saved in their care, including our own **Keith Wallenstein's** son **Owen**.

This year's walk will be held on Sunday, September 15 at Van Saun Park in Paramus, NJ. Check-in and registration begin at 8:30 a.m. with the walk starting at 10 a.m. Go to Announcements/Events on [Conor](#) to sign up.

### Making Strides

Help support and honor those touched by breast cancer while raising funds needed to end this disease. This year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk will be held on **Sunday, October 20** at Woodbury Common in Central Valley. Our team will be tailgating beginning at 7:30 a.m. in Green Lot #37. The walk will begin at 9 a.m. RSVP to [Lisa Culhane](mailto:Lisa.Culhane@oru.com) at [culhanel@oru.com](mailto:culhanel@oru.com) or on ext. 2597.

# Personal Loans at Competitive Rates

Need to make a vehicle or home repair, pay college tuition or book an overdue vacation? Our employee credit union is offering fixed-rate personal loans as low as 6.74% Reach out to the credit union at [www.orutilfcu.org](http://www.orutilfcu.org) or call 845-774-0831.



## Keep It Personal Never share your passwords or user ID



Other user

Client Name

Password

Sign in to CONOR



Use the phish reporter to forward suspicious emails.

## Ethics Training Gets a Makeover

Our new interactive Standards of Business Conduct training features animated graphics, videos and links to important resources. Have some fun while testing your ethical prowess. You can access the 2019 training course on [Conor](#) (eLearning course: SBC0019). Take the training by **November 22** and see how you do!



### Help Is Never Far

Our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers free and confidential assistance 24/7 at **845-357-7005**.

In case of emergency, dial 911, then 2911.



## GOT NEWS?

Share your news and story tips for *Currents* and *Conor*. Contact [Sophia Salis](mailto:saliss@oru.com) at [saliss@oru.com](mailto:saliss@oru.com) or ext. 2583