Students from the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation recently assembled 40 bluebird and 30 bat boxes for the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District’s 50th annual Tree and Shrub Sale.

“We are pleased with the work that the students have completed and appreciate that CiTi continues to support local businesses and organizations such as Oswego County Soil and Water,” said Joseph Charivolotti, district manager.

The spring sale aims to aid in reforestation, shade, erosion control and wind and snow breaks through the sale of trees. The birdhouses and bat boxes help to improve wildlife habitats in Oswego County.

Project Explore students in Carolyn Deary-Petrocci and Morgan Cooper’s classes worked on the project together, drawing on hands-on learning from their carpentry unit.

The Project Explore program provides students in grades nine through 12 the opportunity to explore various vocational mediums; they exit the program with an employability profile and portfolio that may be utilized upon seeking employment or expanded upon entering a Career and Technical program.

Students Brought Back to the Civil War Thanks to Distance Learning

CiTi students were able to connect with a Virginia Museum of History & Culture educator to explore the history of espionage in the Revolutionary and Civil wars thanks to the CiTi Distance Learning program.

The Distance Learning program works with CiTi and component districts to provide educational opportunities and enhance learning experiences via videoconferencing and electronic media.

“Our students have varied interests, so we try to expose them to different topics that are interesting and educational,” said CiTi Exceptional Education Teacher Mary Throne.

During the “I Spy: Virginia’s Secret Agents” learning experience, which was geared toward students in grades three through six, CiTi students learned about some of Virginia’s top-secret agents and how to break codes. Students were excited to learn unique pieces of history such as medicine being smuggled in children’s dolls during the Civil War.

“The next distance learning opportunity coming up for us is a Museum Career Exploration, which fits into our career exploration curriculum,” said Throne. “We are excited to learn about different careers such as researchers, animal keepers and more.
CiTi Alumni Spotlight

CiTi alum Robert Wilmott is a 1986 graduate of Oswego High School and the Carpentry program at CiTi. He started a lifelong career as a carpenter after graduating, eventually joining the Carpenters Union and later working at Nine Mile Point Nuclear. He was then offered the opportunity as council representative within Local 277. He has served on the Oswego City Council and Oswego County Legislature. Do you know CiTi alumni who should be recognized for their success? Share their story with the CiTi Public Relations team at pr@CiTiboces.org.
CiTi Sends Career and Technical Education Team to National SkillsUSA Competition

The Center for Instruction Technology & Innovation will send two students to the National SkillsUSA competition after they took first place in the category of Web Design at the NYS SkillsUSA competition.

Julian Guzman (Digital Media Technology, Central Square) and Zander Huebner (Computer Coding, Fulton) comprised the web design team earning first place, launching them to the national competition that will take place virtually in June. Also placing from CiTi was Megan McCarey (Early Childhood Education, Oswego) and Henry Landers III (CPR & First Aid, Public Safety & Justice, Central Square).

Forty-nine schools were represented in the NYS SkillsUSA competition with 667 contestants overall. The competitions were virtual, either live streamed or pre-recorded entries. Medal-winners for first, second and third place were recognized during the 54th award ceremony on April 24.

“Our students are amazing,” said NYS SkillsUSA Director Midge McCloskey during the ceremony. “Whether you received a medal today or not, you did your best, stepped out of your comfort zone and performed exceptionally.”

Oswego County P-TECH student Andrew Blodgett, from Hannibal Central School District, was elected as 2021-2022 President for the state chapter.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industries working together as a career and technical student organization. SkillsUSA’s mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

Camp Hollis is a summer camp program that provides both day camp and overnight camp programs for children ages 6 to 14. Located on the beautiful shores of Lake Ontario, the season runs from June 24 to Aug. 13 with different theme weeks every week. This summer, they are implementing different types of programs like a Sampler Camp and a Try It Camp program that allows campers to test out camp without staying overnight the full week.

Payment options are based on a sliding scale ranging from $45 to $200 depending on family size and household income. Camp Hollis also partners with the Friends of Camp Hollis, where campers can apply for scholarships to send them to camp for the summer.

If you are a high schooler looking for a summer job, Camp Hollis is looking for various staffing positions for the summer, such as counselors, kitchen staff and lifeguards.

For more information on programming or to apply for open positions, visit youthbureau.oswegoCounty.com.
Career and Technical Education Programs of the Month for April: New Vision (Allied Health and Specialized Careers) and Welding Technology

New Vision and Welding Technology are April's Career and Technical Education programs of the month.

The Welding Technology program is designed to help students gain the basic welding, fabricating, math and problem-solving skills needed to qualify for entry-level employment or apprenticeship.

New Vision offers two track options: Allied Health and Specialized Careers. These are designed for high school seniors who will participate in college-level classroom instruction as well as observations and rotations with local business partners.