

INSIDE INSIGHTS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Sullivan County Manager's Office

April/May 2018



Sullivan County Manager Josh Potosek, right, joined Congressman John Faso, left, and other officials and veterans at last year's Memorial Day service at the Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery in Liberty. This year's service is set for May 28 at 1 p.m.

Join us in remembering

This Memorial Day, Sullivan County Manager Josh Potosek encourages everyone to attend a service, parade or other related observance to give honor to those who fought and died for our country.

"Memorial Day should be a time to pause, to reflect, to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy—because they came at a steep price," he remarked. "We owe as much to the families who sacrificed so much for the cause of liberty."

Sullivan County's official Memorial Day service will be held on May 28 at 1 p.m. at the Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery on Sunset Lake Road in Liberty. Potosek will be one of several speakers.

Looking for something closer to home? Ceremonies will be held throughout the County, and a complete list can be found on the County's website at www.co.sullivan.ny.us.

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- WIC is #1!



Jerry Sommers is one of two fabricators inside the five-man Sullivan County Sign Shop, which calls the Barryville depot home. Here he works on rolling a vinyl stop sign onto its reflective backing, ensuring wind and weather don't tear it apart.

Departmental Spotlight: The Division of Public Works' Sign Shop

Helping you pick the right path countywide

Ever wonder where Sullivan County's 15,000 road signs come from? The guys of our Sign Shop know: they made them.

"We made over 1,000 signs just in January, February and March of this year," notes Charlie Kocher, Sign Shop supervisor.

Fabricator Jerry Sommers had been a Division of Public Works automotive equipment attendant for 13 years before he moved into the Sign Shop. "This is very much unlike anything I did in the beginning," he nods, speaking not only about the switch in career track but the County's new focus on signage far beyond what you'll find on the road.

In fact, the team has been busy creating new signs for the renamed Care Center at Sunset Lake (the Adult Care Center), revamped decals for County vehicles, new Adopt-an-Exit ovals along Route 17, those tiny "No Tobacco Sold to People Under 21" posters found in every smoke shop and gas station for miles around, and a slew of new directional signage in County parks.

"Fort Delaware's our largest sign, at 6x20 feet," says Jerry, who uses everything from paper to vinyl to automotive paint to create a distinctive, noticeable sign.

He shares the Fabrication Room with fellow fabricator Mike Isfan, who got his start with DPW's Road Maintenance crew—and which he sort of never left.

"I still plow snow, load trucks, clean the yard up," Mike affirms, along with being part of the team which stripes 385 miles of County roadways, plus certain towns'.



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Our WIC Is #1!

Sullivan County's WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program has been ranked #1 in New York State for providing nutrition services 100% of the time by qualified nutritionists. The ranking was determined by the NYS Department of Health's Division of Nutrition Services, WIC Program.

The program was also recently ranked sixth in the State for the percentage of infants exclusively breastfed at six months, at 21.3%.

Nancy McGraw, the director of Public Health Services (which oversees the local program), credits the hard work of the WIC staff in promoting breastfeeding, quality nutrition counseling, and implementing monthly breastfeeding support groups under the direction and leadership of Lynn Guiser.

Got a question?

Try your legislator first, by calling the Sullivan County Legislature's office at 845-807-0435. They can direct you to the representative who is elected to serve you.

Or look up who you're seeking directly, via the County's website:
co.sullivan.ny.us

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Care Center begins a new era

Legislators and staff of the Sullivan County Adult Care Center gathered under sunny skies May 18 to celebrate the new name, logo and branding of the facility, now known as the Care Center at Sunset Lake (CCASL).

Drawing upon the name of the town road and County-owned lake which sit immediately adjacent, the Care Center at Sunset Lake rebranding is intended to highlight and reinforce the facility's commitment to quality long- and short-term care, comfortable surroundings and compassionate service.

"We realize that even though this is a nonprofit, publicly-operated facility, we are in a competitive environment with other nursing homes and short-term physical rehabilitation centers in the region," noted Sullivan County Manager Josh Potosek. "So we are embarking on a campaign to remind people why selecting the Care Center at Sunset Lake is a wise choice where they can be confident they and their loved ones will receive the treatment they deserve."

The process to find a new name began approximately six months ago, where first staff and then the public were asked for ideas, and over 100 potential names were submitted. A new logo, created by Dorene Warner of Barryville-based W Design, was approved by the Legislature last month.

The Care Center at Sunset Lake remains under County ownership and operation, and in early May, Administrator Frank Murphy received word that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services awarded the facility a full five stars — the highest ranking possible — under its Five-Star Quality Rating System.

"We've hit the high mark — and we aim to stay there, day in and day out," said Murphy. "I encourage everyone to schedule a tour of our facility, where we can prove this ranking in person."

More information can be found at <http://co.sullivan.ny.us/Departments/DepartmentsAM/HealthandFamilyServices/AdultCareCenter/tabid/3122/Default.aspx> or by calling 845-292-8640.

We're energized to power you up!

The Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) is hard at work finding ways not only to make ourselves more energy-efficient but give you powerful tools to save your hard-earned dollars!

Latest in that effort is OSE's "Powering Sullivan" pamphlet, a handy resource guide for making smart energy choices in your home, your business and your town. Find it at your local library, or contact OSE at 845-807-0578 for a copy.



Powering Sullivan

Smart Energy Choices for Your Home, Business and Town

From the Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE)

For your safety

Two major, disruptive storms in two months this year have made it clear we must be prepared for extended power outages, blocked roads and significant difficulties.

To that end, the County has partnered with local school districts, through Sullivan County BOCES, to use their communications tools — websites, phone messaging, email lists — to distribute vital info during times of crisis.

Our thanks to BOCES and all eight local school districts for their help.

Did we just meet the next generation of legislators?

County staff at the Government Center, including the County Manager's Office, enjoyed hosting a group of Monticello middle-schoolers in late April. Members of the local Boys & Girls Clubs, they were fascinated learning all about County activities and offices — and especially enjoyed having a seat in the chairs typically occupied by the Sullivan County Legislature and County Manager. Who knows? Their interest may now have been sparked in public service, and if so, we can't wait to see them shine!



Sign Shop: They know where this is going...

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Indeed, the Sign Shop is situated in the heart of DPW's Barryville complex, a staging point for all manner of DPW activities.

The Shop itself occupies two stories of one building, much of it dedicated to storage of signs of every conceivable size, shape and color.

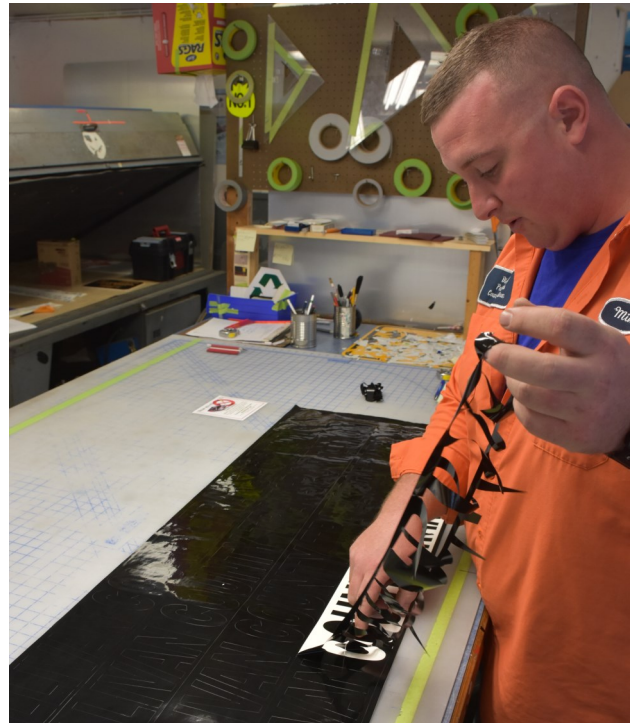
One corner of the Fabrication Room still houses a gigantic baking machine, used to literally cook signs to completion. Nowadays, baking, silkscreening and handpainting have given way to desktop publishing, with signs designed on computers outfitted with CorelDraw, then printed and precisely sliced on large-format plotter-cutters up to 30 inches wide.

"Our biggest leap has been the printer," affirms Charlie, adding with a chuckle, "We should get an even bigger one!"

But making the signs is only half the process. They then must be mounted securely by the installation team of Pat Kerr and Pete Finck.

Then again, they only get their hands on a sign if Jerry and Mike are 100% satisfied.

As Mike puts it, "It will not go out the door if it looks bad."



Fabricator Mike Isfan removes excess vinyl from adhesive letters that spell out "Sullivan County Transportation."



They may be camera-shy, but they're mighty efficient! Caught putting up the new Adopt-an-Exit signs along Route 17 last month were installers Pat Kerr and Pete Finck, plus Sign Shop Supervisor Charlie Kocher. And yes, the signs were made in our own Shop!