

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



BOLSTERING OUR EMS

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

Recruitment struggles. Rising costs. Increased training requirements. An aging population to serve. The world of our EMS providers is a challenging one these days. And while they continue to rise to those challenges, the Sullivan County Legislature has decided it's time to supplement their ranks by adding 4 "fly cars" to respond to medical emergencies. Service begins on or about September 16 with our contracted provider, SeniorCare EMS. Two cars will be outfitted with Basic Life Support equipment, and two with Advanced Life Support equipment. All four will be staffed by EMTs 24/7. Located strategically around Sullivan County, the fly cars will be dispatched as needed by 911, ensuring as quick a response to calls as possible. They will not, however, transport patients, and they will always work hand-in-hand with our local corps, even assisting on board their ambulances, if requested. Our goal with the fly cars is to relieve the pressure on our current providers, not compete with them. Our Division of Public Safety will be monitoring this closely to see if it effectively gets care to patients more quickly, stabilizes them adequately before an ambulance arrives, and integrates well with our existing system. We'll adjust as necessary. Residents shouldn't worry about getting a bill from this service - it's being funded by the taxes you pay. (Note that ambulances



may still bill, if they become involved.) There may be an opportunity for revenue recovery in the future, but right now, the focus is to get help - fast - to everyone who needs it.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

(RE)OPENING OUR
CHILD ADVOCACY
CENTER - 2

BUILDING SUCCESS
FOR OUR AIRPORT - 3

INSPIRING LOCAL TEENS
TO JOIN THE RANKS - 4



WHERE ABUSED, NEGLECTED CHILDREN CAN SAFELY SHARE THEIR STORIES

In late August, local law enforcement, politicians and child advocates got a chance to tour Sullivan County's Child Advocacy Center in Liberty, as part of a grand (re)opening gathering. Amidst a supportive and calming atmosphere, our team compassionately interviews children and families suffering through abuse or neglect. We couldn't do it without the full cooperation of police and State agencies, who share our commitment to the welfare of our most vulnerable. We were glad to have them there!



**ELECTION INSPECTORS
WANTED!!!**

MOST WANTED: YOU!

You may have seen the poster pictured above. We've been spreading the word far and wide: we NEED election inspectors, and we're willing to pay them \$400 for a full day's work.

The upcoming election will feature more than Presidential candidates, and we expect a large turnout. With dozens of polling spots Countywide, our Board of Elections is seeking as many folks as they can find. Give them a call at 845-807-0400 to find out more and to sign up!

TAX AUCTION COMING

With the repurchase deadline now past, all tax-foreclosed properties in Sullivan County are headed for an online-only auction, set for September 11. The full list is at <https://aarauctions.com/servlet/Search.do?auctionId=6787>.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of County Treasurer Nancy Buck and her team, I'm happy to relate that a little over 100 parcels are up for sale, because that's a significant decrease from the hundreds of parcels we used to put up for auction.

You see, it's not about making money for the County - indeed, the State now mandates we cannot keep any surplus (whatever's left over after taxes and liens are paid). We don't want any parcel to go to tax auction, and we work with responsible owners who seek to pay what they owe. That's the best outcome.

BUILDING AN AIRPORT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The 15,000-square-foot, timber-supported terminal at Sullivan County International Airport is already under construction, and when it opens next year, its two stories will feature six leasable business offices, two conference rooms (one large, one small), a pilot’s lounge, and a second-floor dining area (which we aim to lease to a restaurateur) with an outdoor deck overlooking the runway.

Sustainably built with glue-laminated wood, the terminal will be heated and cooled with a geothermal system, powered in part by a photovoltaic array, and

have electric vehicle charging stations right outside its doors.

The intent is not to bring back scheduled airline service, for which we can’t generate enough demand. Rather, we’re seeking to promote Sullivan County International Airport to business aviation companies as a convenient, attractive, cost-effective alternative to the far more congested, expensive NYC airports. Here in Sullivan County’s Catskills, they can store and fuel their planes, ship cargo in and out, and set up offices for their pilots and ground crews.



As of mid-August, the new terminal is taking shape at Sullivan County International Airport.

KEEPING JOBS LOCAL

I join our County and State legislators in urging New York State to keep Sullivan Correctional open in Fallsburg. The impact on our communities and families will be too great if it’s closed as planned.

I also want to ensure people realize we’re NOT closing the Sullivan County Jail in Monticello, which is a separate, nearly brand-new facility overseen by the Sheriff’s Office.

HOUSING TO GET YOU BACK ON YOUR FEET

With no local homeless shelter, it’s always a struggle to find emergency housing for those who need it. But we’re working to open a “gateway housing” solution next year in a quiet, forested part of Monticello.

The facility will feature 20 beds for single men and women. Stays will be for as long as needed to give our social services folks enough time to locate more long-term shelter.

It’s not a cure-all for our homelessness issue, but it is a start, and I look forward to being able to offer this lifeline to people who need it at that moment.

ON THE JOB



Seven local teens spent a week in July discovering all the amazing things our emergency responders do.

The first Emergency Services Youth Academy went so well that our Public Safety team already is planning a second installment next July!



Clockwise from top left:
certified CPR training;
K-9 demonstration;
Sheriff's Office Bearcat;
State Police helicopter;
bomb detonation
armor; search & rescue.